

Suffield Veterinary Hospital June 2017 Patient of the Month

Meet Lucy, a Shih Tzu mix that we estimate is about 15 years old, shown in this beautiful photo taken by our veterinary technician, Jennifer Haire. Lucy was adopted nine years ago by our current Practice Manager, Shane Lawless (then a newly hired Kennel Attendant), shortly after we first met her.

On a hot summer day in 2008, Suffield Animal Control brought Lucy to us after she was found tossed on the side of the road in a small plastic dog carrier just south of the Agawam line on Route 159. Lucy was very bloody and on the verge of death. At first glance it appeared she may have been hit by a car. After being examined, it became clear that she was suffering from pyometra — a life-threatening infection of the uterus. Dr. Griffin O'Connor rushed to save her life by performing emergency surgery to remove Lucy's infected uterus. Lucy was in such rough shape that Dr. O'Connor wasn't even sure if Lucy would survive the surgery. But she did. After a few days of fluid therapy and many failed attempts to get Lucy to eat, Dr. O'Connor asked Shane to try hand-feeding Lucy some canned food. Lucy ate from Shane's hand and it was love at first bite. After that, Shane couldn't walk by Lucy without her dancing in circles. And after some pressure from his new co-workers, Shane decided to give Lucy a new home, as well as her name (making her full name "Lucy Lawless," the same as the actress that played Xena the Warrior Princess, in recognition of Lucy's resilience). Lucy then spent over eight happy and healthy years as a pampered pooch along with Shane's other dogs.



But then, in November 2016, Lucy experienced another life-threatening infection. She was lethargic and vomiting. After multiple laboratory tests and an ultrasound performed by Dr. Larry Berkwiitt of New England Veterinary Center in Windsor, Lucy was diagnosed with septic cholangiohepatitis — a blood infection which affected her gallbladder and liver. Dr. Daniel Rothbart provided her treatment and after three full days of round-the-clock fluid therapy and lots of antibiotics, Lucy bounced back as strong as ever. More than six months later, Lucy is now enjoying her third "lease on life."

For beating the odds (not once, but twice) and for proving that every dog deserves a second (and third) chance, we are pleased to name Lucy the June 2017 Suffield Veterinary Hospital Patient of the Month.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Ann Huntington ❖ Dr. Anita Sabellico ❖ Dr. Dawn Burke

❖ Dr. Griffin O'Connor ❖ Dr. Daniel Rothbart

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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com